

My name is Kaylyn and I am currently serving as the CT State FFA Association President for the 2011-2012 school year. I represent about 3,100 students involved in agricultural education and the state FFA Association.

Agricultural Education has the potential to affect *every* high school student of Connecticut. We have 20 Agriscience centers across the state, 19 of which are regional and pull students from surrounding towns. The Ag-Ed centers are represented here tonight by chapter FFA members. I am going to recognize each of our Ag-Ed programs. Students, as I call your chapter name, please stand.

- Housatonic Valley in Canaan serves 6 towns
- Northwestern in Barkhamsted serves 8 towns
- Wamogo in Litchfield serves 9 towns
- Woodbury serves 23 towns
- Stamford serves 9 towns
- Trumbull serves 9 towns
- Bridgeport serves 8 towns
- Southington serves 10 towns
- Lyman Hall in Wallingford serves 9 towns
- The New Haven Sound School serves 17 towns
- Mattabesett in Middletown serves 17 towns
- Suffield serves 8 towns
- Rockville serves 10 towns
- Bloomfield serves 6 towns
- Storrs serves 5 towns
- Lebanon serves 13 towns
- Killingly serves 12 towns
- And Ledyard serves 13 towns

We have one non-regional Ag-Ed Program in East Haddam and that's the Ray chapter.

If you add those all up, it equates to 169 towns, or the entire state of Connecticut!

However, every year due to financial problems, teaching positions go unfilled, and the ones who do obtain a job, have to work with inadequate or outdated materials and supplies. Students are turned away or discouraged to apply to the programs due to a lack of teachers, transportation, or funding, leaving seats unfilled in a valuable part of our education. I encourage everyone to talk to the students present here tonight with any questions and please support the Agricultural Education programs. Thank you.